

DoD Announces New Policy on Sexual Assault Prevention

Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness David S.C. Chu delivered the Department of Defense's new sexual assault policy to Congress Jan. 4.



The policy provides a foundation through which the department will improve prevention of sexual assault, enhance support to victims and increase accountability.

Over the past year, the department has been working with the services, members of Congress and national experts to address the crime of sexual assault within the armed forces. As a result, the Joint

Task Force for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response was established in October 2004 as the single point of accountability for the department's sexual assault policy.

Its initial task was to develop policy incorporating the criteria set forth in Public Law 108-375, which directed the department to have a sexual assault policy in place by Jan. 1, 2005.

A summary of the policy is available at www.defenselink.mil/news/Jan2005/d20050104sum.pdf.

Core areas include specific guidelines for how to investigate complaints, medical treatment and care for victims, commander's checklists for response actions, reporting of sexual assault information, and expanding access to care through collaboration between military installations and local community support.



Naval Media Center
2713 Mitscher Rd. SW
Anacostia Annex, DC 20373-5819

email: pubs@mediacen.navy.mil
DSN: (288) or (202)433-0576



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